SENATE . . . . No. 630

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

The situation in relation to the street railways of Massachusetts, as pointed out in the inaugural address, is one of great difficulty. Some of them are not earning enough money to meet their expenditures. This can only have one result if continued, — that is the suspension of operations. In many localities the operation of street railways is a public necessity. It would be a great public inconvenience if, on account of conditions which it is trusted may be temporary, street railways should cease to operate or if their operation should be greatly impaired. This is a condition which exists all over the Nation and investigation has been undertaken by the Federal authorities. It is hoped that it will be temporary. It is, however, very desirable that some emergency legislation should be provided which could be put into operation if the contingency arises.

It is therefore recommended that provision be made for the temporary operation of a street railway by a public manager so that such street railway may be under the exclusive control of public officers and public agents, with authority to fix fares subject to revision by the Public Service Commission; and that temporarily for the public convenience in order to operate street railways placed under such control, provision be made for extending the credit of the Commonwealth and of the cities and towns in which such

street railways operate. Such management should be approved and supervised by the Public Service Commission, and public credit should be extended only so far as is necessary to keep the roads in operation by taking care of valid operating deficits, for a limited period in any event and only so far as existing necessities require, without in any way impairing or restricting a further and different action in the future, or imposing in any event an undue burden upon the taxpayers.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.